

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 034402

EXDIS, TOSEC 14

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 822 ACTION SECSTATE FEB 20TH

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 822

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS UR ENRG

SUBJECT: SADAT INTERVIEW WITH READERS DIGEST SENIOR

STAFFERS

1. READERS DIGEST (RD) SENIOR STAFFERS ROBERT DIVINE AND JOHN PANITZA, WHO HAVE BEEN IN CAIRO PAST FEW DAYS PREPARING STORY ON EGYPT, HAD INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT SADAT LAST EVENING AND CAME BY AFTERWARDS TO BRIEF ME. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY SADAT FOLLOW:

A. DISENGAGEMENT IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. ISRAELIS, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNWILLING ACCEPT HIS REPEATED PEACE OFFERS, HAD BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE AS A RESULT OF ARAB SUCCESSES DURING OCTOBER HOSTILITIES. CREDIT FOR ACHIEVING DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT GOES TO PRESIDENT  
SECRET

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NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. HOWEVER, EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT IS ONLY FIRST STEP ON ROAD TO PEACE. SIMILAR DISENGAGEMENT MUST ALSO TAKE PLACE SHORTLY ON SYRIAN FRONT AND ULTIMATELY ISRAELIS MUST LEAVE OCCUPIED

ARAB TERRITORIES.

B. SINAI: WHEN ASKED BY PANITZA IF A PART OF SINAI MIGHT BE DETACHED AND JOINED WITH GAZA AREA, SADAT BRISTLED. HE FORCEFULLY REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES, "ISRAEL MUST LEAVE ALL OF MY TERRITORY." RD STAFFERS WERE STRUCK BY SADAT'S TERMINOLOGY SEEMINGLY REFERRING ONLY TO EGYPTIAN TERRITORY.

C. RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS: SADAT DECLINED TO DISCUSS EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS. APPARENTLY RECOGNIZING THE RD EDITORS HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH OTHERS, SADAT MADE A SPECIAL PLEA EVEN AFTER THE TAPE RECORDER WAS TURNED OFF TO ASK THAT NOTHING BE PUBLISHED ON THIS SCORE. HE CLAIMED IT WOULD SERIOUSLY EMBARRASS HIM AT THIS TIME.

D. OIL EMBARGO: SADAT STATED CATEGORICALLY OIL EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED ON MARCH 17, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.

3. RETIREMENT: WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR, SADAT STATED CATEGORICALLY HE INTENDS LEAVE OFFICE IN OCTOBER 1976, BUT WOULD NOT GO BEYOND THIS. BOTH MADAME SADAT AND AHRAH EDITOR ALI AMIN, WERE PRESENT FOR INTERVIEW, REMONSTRATED WITH THE PRESIDENT NOT RPT NOT TO SET ANY SUCH PUBLIC DATE. SADAT REPORTEDLY REMAINED ADAMANT, INSISTING HE IS DETERMINED RETIRE IN OCTOBER, 1976.

F. ARABIC EDITION OF READERS DIGEST: SADAT MADE STRONG PLEA THAT RD RESUME PUBLISHING AL-MUKHTAR, ITS ERSTWHILE ARABIC EDITION. HE PROPOSED RD BRING ITS OWN PRINTING PLANT INTO EGYPT AND OFFERED ALL ASSISTANCE TO FACILITATE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION. RD STAFFERS SAID THEY WILL CONSIDER MATTER.  
EILTS UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

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